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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,725	09/15/2003	Melissa Ann Diercks	138681	1504

7590 11/18/2005

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EXAMINER

KRAMSKAYA, MARINA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2858

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/662,725		DIERCKS ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Marina Kramskaya		2858	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09/15/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 6-11, 13-14, & 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weeks, US 5,168,261.

As per Claims 1 & 13, Weeks discloses a method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system (ABS.), comprising:

applying an analog signal (from **18**) to a node (**14**) in said electrical switchgear system, wherein said node monitors a power line signal (i.e. during operation monitors **9**, during test monitors **18**) and controls a breaker **6** based on said power line signal, and wherein said analog signal simulates said power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12); and

receiving data representing a status of said breaker (through interface **8**).

As per Claims 2 & 14, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, wherein the data is received (by **8**) from at least one of said node **14** or said breaker **6**.

As per Claims 6 & 18, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, wherein the application of the signal (from **18**) is performed while said node **14** monitors said power line signal (column 3, lines 37-40).

As per Claims 7 & 19, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, wherein said analog signal simulates a fault condition of said power line signal (column 5, lines 32-35).

As per Claims 8 & 20, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, wherein said analog signal simulates a non-fault (i.e. "normal" operation) condition of said power line signal (column 3, lines 46-48).

As per Claims 9 & 21, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, wherein additional modifying of said analog signal based on said status of said breaker is provided; and additional data representing said status of said breaker is received (column 3, lines 56-59). In the instant case, the operator modifies the signal of the signal, and the node continues to receive data regarding the status of the breaker.

As per Claims 10 & 22, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system,

wherein said analog signal is a first analog signal (i.e. continuous signal from **18**), said node is a first node (**14**: "circuit breaker control #1"), said breaker is a first breaker (**6**: "circuit breaker #1"), and said power line signal is a first power line signal,

wherein said method further comprises applying, a second analog signal (i.e. continuous signal from **18**, plugged into second receptacle **24**) to a second node (**14**: "circuit breaker control #1") in said electrical switchgear system,

wherein said second node (**14**: "circuit breaker control #2") monitors a second power line signal and controls a second breaker (**6**: "circuit breaker #2") based on said second power line signal, and

wherein said second analog signal simulates said second power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12).

Weeks does not explicitly teach applying the second signal simultaneously with the application of the first analog signal.

However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the second signal simultaneously with the application of the first analog signal, since an additional test receptacle (**24**) is provided for the second node. The benefit of applying the two test signals simultaneously would be to reduce testing time for the switchgear system.

As per Claims 11 & 23, Weeks further discloses the method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, further comprising measuring a time required for the said breaker to trip based on timestamps of said data (column 5, lines 16-18). Although, Weeks does not explicitly teach measuring the predetermined amount of time, it is inherent for the system to measure the said predetermined time, for the tester to function.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-5, 12, 15-17, & 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weeks, in view of Baker, US 5,737,168.

As per Claims 3-5 & 15-17, Weeks discloses a method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, as applied to claims 1 & 13, above.

Weeks does not explicitly disclose a method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, wherein

the analog signal has a magnitude of less than about 10 volts peak-to-peak;

the analog signal has a magnitude of about 2.5 volts peak-to-peak;

the analog signal has a magnitude of less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of said power line signal.

Baker discloses a test system wherein,
the analog signal has a magnitude of less than about 10 volts peak-to-peak (column 11, lines 58-59);

the analog signal has a magnitude of about 2.5 volts peak-to-peak (column 11, lines 58-59);

the analog signal has a magnitude of less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of said power line signal (column 11, lines 58-59, the test signal is about 2%).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the test analog signal be less than about 10 volts peak-to-peak less, in particular about 2.5 volts peak-to-peak, and less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the power line signal, in order to avoid damage to the circuit which could be caused by the high power line voltage.

As per Claims 12 & 24, Weeks discloses a method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system (ABS.), comprising:

applying a first analog signal (continuous signal from 18) to a first node (14: "circuit breaker control #1") in said electrical switchgear system, wherein said first node monitors a first power line signal and controls a first breaker (6: "circuit breaker #1")

based on said first power line signal, and wherein said first analog signal simulates said first power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12);

applying a second analog signal (continuous signal from **18**, plugged into second receptacle **24**) to a second node (**14**: "circuit breaker control #2") in said electrical switchgear system, wherein said second node monitors a second power line signal and controls a second breaker (**6**: "circuit breaker #2") based on said second power line signal, and wherein said second analog signal simulates said second power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12); and

receiving data (by **8**) from said first node representing a status of said first breaker.

Weeks does not explicitly teach applying the second signal simultaneously with the application of the first analog signal, and Weeks does not disclose the first analog signal having a magnitude of less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the first power line signal.

Baker discloses first analog signal having a magnitude of less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the first power line signal (column 11, lines 58-59, the test signal is about 2%).

However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the second signal simultaneously with the application of the first analog signal, since an additional test receptacle (**24**) is provided for the second node. The benefit of applying the two test signals simultaneously would be to reduce testing time for the switchgear system. Further, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art to have the test analog signal be less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the first power line signal, in order to avoid damage to the circuit which could be caused by the high power line voltage.

5. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weeks, in view of Lavoie et al., US 6,798,209.

Weeks discloses a method comprising instruction for a operator for testing an electrical switchgear system, the instructions comprising:

apply an analog signal (from **18**) to a node (**14**) in said electrical switchgear system; wherein said node monitors a power line signal (i.e. during operation monitors **9**, during test monitors **18**) and controls a breaker (**6**) based on said power line signal, and wherein said analog signal simulates said power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12); and

receive data representing a status of said breaker (by interface **8**).

Weeks does not disclose storage medium comprising instructions for controlling a processor for testing an electrical switchgear system.

Lavoie discloses storage medium **123** comprising instructions for controlling a processor (in **123**) for testing an electrical switchgear system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a storage means and a processor, as taught by Lavoie, in the testing system of Weeks, in order to replace the human operator with a processor, which would reduce operator error.

6. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weeks, in view of Baker and Lavoie.

Weeks discloses Weeks discloses a method comprising instruction for a operator for testing an electrical switchgear system, the instructions comprising:

applying a first analog signal (continuous signal from **18**) to a first node (**14**: "circuit breaker control #1") in said electrical switchgear system, wherein said first node monitors a first power line signal and controls a first breaker (**6**: "circuit breaker #1") based on said first power line signal, and wherein said first analog signal simulates said first power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12);

applying a second analog signal (continuous signal from **18**, plugged into second receptacle **24**) to a second node (**14**: "circuit breaker control #2") in said electrical switchgear system, wherein said second node monitors a second power line signal and controls a second breaker (**6**: "circuit breaker #2") based on said second power line signal, and wherein said second analog signal simulates said second power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12); and

receiving data (by **8**) from said first node representing a status of said first breaker.

Weeks does not explicitly teach applying the second signal simultaneously with the application of the first analog signal, and Weeks does not disclose the first analog signal having a magnitude of less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the first

power line signal. Weeks does not disclose storage medium comprising instructions for controlling a processor for testing an electrical switchgear system.

Baker discloses first analog signal having a magnitude of less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the first power line signal (column 11, lines 58-59, the test signal is about 2%).

Lavoie discloses storage medium **123** comprising instructions for controlling a processor (in **123**) for testing an electrical switchgear system.

However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the second signal simultaneously with the application of the first analog signal, since an additional test receptacle (**24**) is provided for the second node. The benefit of applying the two test signals simultaneously would be to reduce testing time for the switchgear system. Further, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the test analog signal be less than or equal to about 10% of a magnitude of the first power line signal, in order to avoid damage to the circuit which could be caused by the high power line voltage. Yet further, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a storage means and a processor, as taught by Lavoie, in the testing system of Weeks, in order to replace the human operator with a processor, which would reduce operator error.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 09/06/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

8. In response to applicant's argument that the Weeks patent does not teach the limitations called for by claims 1 and 13, the examiner points out the distinct teachings of Weeks in relation to the invention as claimed.

In particular Weeks discloses a method and arrangement for testing an electrical switchgear system, which is briefly disclosed in the abstract of the Weeks patent.

Weeks further discloses applying an analog signal (from **18**) to a node (**14**) in said electrical switchgear system. The signal produced by **18** is not disclosed to be a digital signal, therefore it is interpreted as an analog signal.

The node **14** monitors a power line signal (i.e. during operation monitors **9**, during test monitors **18**). The applicant argues that the power line signal is disconnected during the testing phase of Weeks. The examiner agrees that the power line signal is in fact disconnected from the node during the test procedure; however the claim language does not require a simultaneous monitoring of the live power line signals and testing with the simulated signal.

The node **14** further controls a breaker **6** based on said power line signal, and wherein said analog signal simulates said power line signal (i.e. simulates electrical operation, column 1, line 12). The simulated electrical operation which test the breaker is representative of the breaker operation under normal conditions, in effect the conditions of being coupled to the live power line.

Interface **8** receives data representing a status of said breaker, wherein interface **8** receives the status of the current flowing to the breaker from the transmission line (2, 3, or 4); hence the representative current level status is the status of the breaker.

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Weeks, in column 3, lines 3-21, teaches the relationship between the current received by interface 8 and the breaker 6, whereby the current is indicative of whether a breaker remains closed or open (i.e. status of breaker).

9. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the teachings of Baker, in particular that the Baker test signal (i.e. simulated signal) is not an analog one, the examiner points out that the simulated DC voltage 66, is indeed an analog signal since a DC voltage is continuous in time, satisfying the definition of an analog signal.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Kramskaya whose telephone number is (571)272-2146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:00.

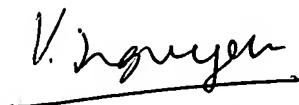
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on (571)272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marina Kramskaya
Examiner
Art Unit 2858



MK



VINCENT Q. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER